

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Ursula Velazquez and I came to Hartford in 2019 with my young daughter who is now 6 years old. I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense. I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Once, my daughter became seriously ill in the year 2021. I had to take her to the emergency room because she had a high fever and was crying a lot. At the hospital they told me she had a small infection and prescribed an antibiotic. They did not check her again later to see if she had recovered or if the infection was completely cured.

After a few days I received a letter from the hospital saying that I owed \$4000 for the care received. I had to pay that really expensive amount because I did not have health insurance.

As a mother, I don't have that kind of money. I work, but it is not enough to pay that amount. With my job I cover rent, food, and utilities, and I don't know who to contact for help.

My biggest fear is getting sick and having to go back to the emergency room and then not being able to cover the medical expenses because I don't have medical insurance. That is why I am turning to you, and giving my testimony, to ask for health insurance that is fairer so that we can all receive medical care and recovery follow up. Please support S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Thank you for your time,
Ursula Velasquez